

The Myriapoda found on the Cocos-Keeling Islands January—October, 1941

In 1941 I collected examples of six species of Myriapoda on the Cocos-Keeling Islands, of which four were centipedes and two millipedes. Taken as a whole, the former group is plentiful throughout the atoll, and the latter abundant. Only two species were recorded by Wood-Jones (working 1905-6) but he also took a millipede, which Hirst later identified as *Trigoniulus* n. sp., a genus not represented in my collection. Unfortunately the 1941 specimens have not survived the war.

Three of the species collected from these islands for the first time appeared to be identical with ones occurring on Christmas Island. It is therefore possible that they have been introduced since 1900 in soil brought down for the gardens on Pulo Selma and Pulo Tikus. The large centipede, *Scolopendra subspinipes*, which is now plentiful all over Christmas Island, even in the depths of the jungle, was not present as recently as Andrews's visit there of 1898.

Sub-order Chilopoda

Scolopendra subspinipes Leach.

Common to all the larger islands in the main atoll, where it is found under the bark of trees, and in the piles of fallen coconut husks. In damp weather, frequently shortly before rain, it emerges into the open and may occasionally be seen crossing paths and similar spaces. The Malays are very chary of it, although records of bites are rare. They consider it to be the most dangerous of the arthropods occurring on the islands. Local name, *Halipan*.

(not identified).

Plentiful on all the larger islands in the atoll. It occurs mostly under stones, and in the heads of the coconut palms. It is usually found in situations slightly drier than those chosen by *Scolopendra subspinipes*, and may be together with the scorpion, *Isometrus maculatus*, or the common earwig, *Anisolabis annulipes*.

(not identified).

Plentiful throughout the coconut plantations, where it is found under the piles of discarded husks, which have been left on the ground to rot. It seems to prefer a fairly damp habitat, and may occur in company with *Scolopendra subspinipes*.

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(not identified).

A single specimen taken under a pile of coconut husks on Pulo Panjang.

Sub-order Chilognatha

?*Orthoporpha coarctata* (Sauss.).

This species, which is apparently also present on Christmas Island, is very common on all the islands in the main atoll, occurring principally under piles of coconut husks, fallen timber and stones. It can occasionally be seen in the open, particularly shortly before rain. Local name, *Kaki Ribu*.

(not identified).

This, like the preceeding species, also appears to be plentiful on Christmas Island; in the Cocos-Keeling group it is common on most of the islands in the main atoll, occurring principally under rotting wood, and coconut husks, or under the bark of dying trees. Local name, *Kaki Ribu*.

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